

March 7, 1984

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medical indigency program. It simply met its Medicaid share, that is all it did. It met its Medicaid share and didn't put one penny into a medical indigency program. As a result of that, St. Joseph Hospital had to take the county board to court. In a Nebraska Supreme Court decision the Supreme Court held the county board refused, willfully refused to undertake its statutory responsibilities and sent the case back for further proceedings so that the medical bills could start getting paid by the Douglas County taxpayers as we, by statute for years, said it should be done. Now do you think if you give the county boards, again, the authority to set their guidelines they are going to do anything different from what the county board did in Douglas County four years ago, when it simply said we will bankrupt them? I have been thinking about this procedure this morning. This is a very dear and important issue. I think the county officials are breaking their word with respect to the establishment of standards for the medically indigent. I have concluded, however, that two wrongs do not make a right. Simply because they break their word is no reason for me to ask this body to break its word. For that reason, I withdraw this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The amendment is withdrawn. Do you have anything else? The question before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Committee amendments. We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Committee amendments. We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the committee amendments? Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.